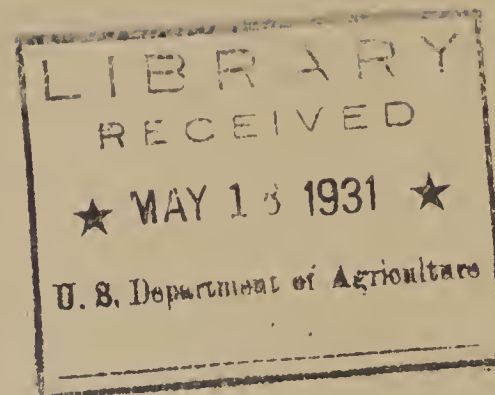


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Senior Horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 42 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, May 5, 1931.

---oOo---

Hellow Folks: You have just heard the report. Aside from being a little dry we are having the most wonderful weather for all lines of gardening and orchard work here in the Washington section. However, Jack Frost stole in last night and gave the shingles of my porch a coating of white. I was talking with Dr. M. B. Waite, head of the fruit disease section a day or two ago and he was remarking about the wonderful setting of the stone fruits, and that during the time peaches, plums and cherries were in full bloom we had ideal weather for the bees to work.

Apples are in full bloom here at Washington, a few of the early blooming varieties are shedding their blossoms, but the main varieties like Staymen are at the height of their blossoming period. The weather has not been quite so perfect for the bees to work the past few days, a little too cold and windy but yesterday and to-day the bees are making up for lost time visiting the apple blossoms.

Just a few days ago I had a talk with Dr. John W. Roberts, one of Dr. Waite's associates in the fruit disease section, and I asked him if he had any message that he would like to have me pass on to the fruit growers about spraying. His reply was, yes, tell the fruit growers to be sure to have spray material on hand and to spray their apples at the proper time for the control of scab. The day and date for doing this spraying can not be put down but varies with locality and the stage of blossoming. The buds and the blossoms are the only reliable indicator of the exact time to do this spraying. To make a complete job of scab control, and at the same time to control codling moth, three sprays should be applied. The first of the pre-blossom sprays is put on just as soon as the bloom clusters open. The second as soon as the individual buds show pink, and the third spray, known as the petal-fall spray should be applied just when nearly all of the petals have fallen. There may be a few delayed blooms but these should be disregarded.

The materials for the control of apple scab and codling moth are lime sulphur and arsenate of lead. The usual proportions are one and one-half gallons of commercial lime sulphur solution and one pound of the dry or powdered arsenate of lead in 50 gallons of water. The main point is to apply the spray just as the petals are practically all down but wait until most of the petals have fallen in order to avoid poisoning your friends the bees.

Dr. Roberts suggests that for the home fruit grower and the small grower who may not find it convenient to put on all three sprays, that the petal-drop

Over

spray is the most important. It is now too late to apply the pre-blossom sprays in many sections so the petal-drop spray should not be neglected. Varieties of apples that are not especially subject to scab, or in sections where scab is not severe, the amount of commercial lime sulphur solution may be reduced to one or to one and one-fourth gallons to fifty gallons of water, but the one pound of lead arsenate should be included or one of the sulphur pastes or dry mixes may be used, following directions on package. This matter of controlling apple diseases, especially scab, varies somewhat with variety and locality and growers are always advised to get the latest information for their section from their State Experiment Station. Bordeaux mixture should not be used for spraying apples until after the weather gets hot, as early spraying with Bordeaux will cause burning of the fruit.

Peaches and plums are subject to brown rot and scab and especially to the ravages of plum curculio. Peaches and plums are both part full bloom now throughout the middle sections of the country and the control measures should be applied as follows: The first application of spray or dust when the shucks are shedding or about 10 days after the petals fall. The second application about two weeks later and the third and perhaps fourth application about a month before the variety in question is expected to ripen. For the directions for preparing the different sprays and dusts I would advise you to get a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1527 on Peach Brown Rot and Scab. This bulletin also includes instructions for the addition of the poison to control the plum curculio. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1527.

I wish I had the time to read to you a few of the many letters we are receiving in response to our Progressive Garden Club programs. Everybody wants to join the club and receive the literature on gardening. The following are a few statements taken from a letter dated April 27th. "Just a line to let you know how much I enjoyed the Progressive Garden Club programs. When the Progressive Garden Club is on the air there isn't any work done around the place. I want to thank you for the bulletins and can assure you that they are read and studied from cover to cover. The work you people are doing is bringing a great deal of good to the farmers. Right around here you can hear a great many people remark, "Must be getting home, it won't be long till the Farm and Home Hour will be on." I will close," continues the letter, "wishing the Progressive Garden Club the very greatest success and may it never be taken off the air."

The club will be on the air again next Tuesday, so tune in for the entire Farm and Home Hour and with it the Progressive Garden Club program.
